

Precinct 7 Deputies Participate in the METRO "Bus Safe" Initiative



The Metro Police Department conducted the "Bus Safe" initiative on Friday, April 13, 2012, from 2 P.M. until 10 P.M. Shortly after the operation was underway, Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee, METRO Police Chief, Victor Rodriguez and Constable May Walker Harris County Precinct 7 introduced and explained the reasoning behind the program during a press conference at METRO's **Wheeler Transit Center, 4500 Main Street.**

As detailed to members of the media, through stepped up patrol by undercover and uniformed officers and deputies employed by **TSA, METRO, Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 7** and the **Houston Police Department** the "Bus Safe" program will help reduce criminal activity on METRO's busses, Metrorail, and bus stops and stations.

Numerous arrests were made by the participating agencies during the course of the operation. More collaborative efforts involving these groups are scheduled to take place in the near future; however, dates and routes will remain undisclosed in order to target areas that have seen trouble before and curb crime, also terrorism.

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BE AWARE! BE ALERT! BE CAREFUL!

Staying Safe While Using Public Transportation

Never flash money at a bus or Metrorail station or in any other place where you will use public transportation. **These are popular areas where criminals hang around looking for easy marks.**

Keep out of the way of oncoming vehicles and do not let someone stand directly in back of you. They could easily push you in front of an incoming bus or train.

When waiting for transportation, never stand by yourself, especially after dark. **Always gravitate to a well-lit area where others are standing. When alone you are vulnerable and very easy prey.**

Never get on an empty train or bus. That's asking for trouble. Always seek the company of other people. If there is no other choice, sit at the front of the bus or train in view of the driver.

Do not get on a bus or in a taxi all by yourself if you have had too much to drink. You are so much easier to rob, assault or worse when you are too inebriated to think clearly or to run or fight back. Sooner or later, that bus or cab will stop, and you will have to get out alone. If you get a great cab driver, you may be able to pay him to escort you inside, but this is not all that likely. It is best to pay for a cab and share the ride with a friend.

Do not use your time on the rail or bus to catch up on your sleep, unless you are with someone who is awake. It is not safe to trust strangers to look out for you and your belongings. **Not being alert could be costly, because it makes you the likeliest target around.**

If you have to carry valuables (such as a briefcase or overnight bag) on public transportation, always keep them close to your body--not on the floor, under the seat or on the seat next to you. Put them between your feet or in your lap.

Stay on your chosen method of transportation as long as you can. It is easier for someone to take you on when you are out walking alone than it is on an occupied bus or train. When you get off, be aware of your surroundings. If you're walking to your car or apartment, have your keys in your hand and ready to use. They are also an effective weapon. Another great weapon that's very effective but totally legal is a metal-tipped umbrella. Use it like a walking stick--most criminals do not like their victims to be armed with anything.

Always be aware of your surroundings. Know who is around you and what's going on. Always make conscious decisions about when and where to board and where to sit. Your best protection is to never be caught off guard.

Make sure to keep your cell phone charged if using public transportation just in case of an emergency or to report criminal or suspicious activity to the police.